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The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JANUARY 17th, 1877.

It is a significant fact that the Governor of Shanghai, in his report of the total amount collected by the Customs Stations at Lintung Chih on behalf of the Boards of Works and Revenue, remarks upon the pressure of the late collector of the Upper Yangtze, Ho Hsueh, who he says "tend to drive away trade." He is, of course, speaking of trade which would normally have passed up the Grand Canal, but which has been diverted conjointly by excessive taxation and the deterioration of the canal. It is strange that the Chinese Government will not, or cannot, see that excessive taxation not only checks trade but causes a falling off in its own revenue. It might have been thought that this was too self-evident a proposition to escape its notice, but judging from its action there seems some doubt whether the idea has ever engaged its attention. It is apparently anxious to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs, an act of childish folly it would be sure to bitterly regret later on. The Governor of Shanghai, in his report, also mentions a decline of revenue collected on behalf of the Board of Works of the Tientsin, and on that for the Board of Revenue of the Tientsin, 2,465. These amounts, when compared with the total sums collected, are considerable, and show how heavy duties often fail to prove profitable. To impose excessive taxation on goods is, too, to put a premium on smuggling. Those articles, on which duties are highest, and, naturally, the ones which offer the most temptation to the contrabandist. A prohibitive duty invariably produces the double evil of a falling away of trade and an increase in smuggling. The sooner the Chinese Government recognises this fact the better it will be both for its own pecuniary interests and for the extension of legitimate trade.

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In Criminal Jurisdiction.

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